DAAYITWA ABHIYAAN

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Nepal Rising

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GOVERNANCE LAB

LEADERSHIP GOVERNANCE INNOVATION

Daayitwa Abhiyaan

Monthly Newsletter

September Edition, 2026

DAAYITWA

Daayitwa Nepal Public Policy Fellowship :

1. Presentation and Feedback Session at Policy Research Institute (PRI)

On September 9, 2026, DNPPF 2026 fellows presented their ongoing research at the Policy Research Institute (PRI), followed by one-on-one feedback sessions with PRI experts. Fellows discussed their research questions, methodology, analysis, and recommendations, receiving direct feedback on how to make their policy recommendations more specific and actionable. The session gave fellows an opportunity to discuss their work in detail and refine their research with inputs from policy practitioners and experts. .



2. DNPPF 2026 Fellows led Policy Dialogue on Local Governance in Federal Nepal

DNPPF 2026 Fellows, in collaboration with the Economics Students Society, Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, convened a policy dialogue on local governance in federal Nepal, bringing together policymakers, academics, faculty, and students.

The session featured research findings by Dr. Resham Thapa Parajuli, followed by a panel discussion with Hon. Bishnu Kumari Sapkota, Hon. Dr. Tara Prasad Joshi, Dr. Sohan Sah, and Dr. Parajuli, chaired by Prof. Dr. Shiva Lal Bhusal, HoD, Central Department of Economics. Reflections were also shared by Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal, and Prof. Shiva Raj Adhikari, PhD.





The discussion focused on intergovernmental coordination, overlapping responsibilities, local capacity, inclusion, equitable development, and differences in revenue-generation capacity across local governments.

3. DNPPF 2026 Symposium and Graduation Ceremony

Held on September 18 at Hotel Himalaya, Kupondole, the Daayitwa Nepal Public Policy Fellowship 2026 Symposium marked the graduation of 12 DNPPF 2026 Fellows and brought together stakeholders to discuss youth-government collaboration and evidence-based policymaking for Nepal's economic future.

The symposium featured a panel on “Beyond LDC Graduation: What Kind of Economy Should Nepal Build Next, and How?”, moderated by Mr. Bhojraj Poudél, with Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Mr. Prabin Man Singh, Ms. Manju Gurung, and Dr. Pradeep Panthi. Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Advisor, Daayitwa, shared session remarks.

The graduation session featured the fellows’ key research findings and recommendations, reflecting their three months of policy research, analysis, and parliamentary support across nine government institutions. The program also included experience sharing by fellow Ms. Sara Pyakurel, remarks from public partners and funding partners Mr. Suraj Aryal, NPC and Mr. Shailesh Prasad Acharya, IGI Prudential and mentor reflections from Dr. Arati Maleku, on behalf of NACA mentors, and Dr. Sujit Raj Pandey.







Following the felicitation of the 12 fellows, Prof. Dr. Biswo Poudel, Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank, shared congratulatory remarks. The symposium concluded with remarks from Dr. Nisha Onta, Executive Director, Governance Lab, and a vote of thanks from Dr. Prativa Pandey, Chairperson, Daayitwa.

With this, the DNPPF 2026 cycle has now officially concluded.



Mobilizing Governance Fellows in Koshi Province (MGFKP)

MGFKP Team Advances Provincial and University Partnerships in Koshi Province

From September 23–27, 2026, the MGFKP team visited Biratnagar for consultations with the Koshi Province Planning Commission (PPC) and Manmohan Technical University (MTU) to advance the Governance Fellowship programme. Discussions with PPC explored alignment with the Province's Talent Hunt, Niti Samvad, and policy priorities, while identifying potential thematic areas and public-sector partners. MTU discussions focused on academic engagement, student participation, mentorship, knowledge production, and institutional sustainability. Follow-up consultations further emphasized developing a demand-driven, practical, and impact-oriented fellowship model connecting provincial priorities, universities, and policy processes.



ENTREPRENUERSHIP

Turning Business Challenges into Transformative Actions

Under the **GIZ-GRAPE II** SME GG Loop Program, 3 coaching sessions were conducted for the participating SMEs from 9-30 September.



The coaching supported the SMEs in identifying key business challenges, exploring growth opportunities, and developing practical actions across areas such as access to finance, supplier and market linkages, packaging and branding, digital marketing, climate risks, and environmentally responsible business practices.

As part of the transformative actions, the SMEs explored potential banks and financial institutions offering concessional financing, identified new suppliers and B2B market opportunities, and considered expanding customer outreach through digital platforms including TikTok, Facebook, and YouTube.

The SMEs also explored environmentally friendly packaging options and improved storage practices to strengthen climate resilience and reduce environmental risks. From a Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) perspective, the coaching highlighted the challenges women entrepreneurs face in accessing finance, particularly due to collateral requirements.

The coaching has helped women entrepreneurs explore options for arranging suitable collateral and identifying appropriate financing opportunities to support the start-up and growth of their businesses. It has also strengthened their focus on women's economic empowerment, financial access, market expansion, digital outreach, climate resilience, and sustainable business practices.







POV: Under the GIZ-GRAPE II SME GG Loop Program, 3 coaching sessions were conducted for the participating SMEs from 9-30 September.

Enterprise Development Component Launched under UNDP RERAS

The Enterprise Development component under the RERAS project was officially launched with a team orientation, bringing together the project team to align on objectives, implementation approaches, and field-level coordination.

Following the orientation, partnership and scoping visits were conducted across the project areas. Mr. Sulav Nepal, Sr. Manager (Social Innovation), Mr. Gaurav D. Bhatt, Programs Officer, & Mr.Surat Bahadur Chand visited Bajura, while Ms. Sneha Shakya, Program Manager, Mr. Sadeep Shrestha, Program Officer, & Mr. Keshav Rokaya, Enterprise Development Coordinator visited the Jumla cluster.



The visits focused on engaging with local stakeholders, visiting enterprises, understanding the local enterprise ecosystem, and exploring opportunities for collaboration. The teams also held discussions with other implementing partners of the RERAS project to strengthen coordination and ensure complementarity in project implementation.

These initial engagements have laid the groundwork for the Enterprise Development component, with a focus on locally informed approaches, stakeholder collaboration, and strengthening opportunities for enterprise growth in the project areas.

The RERAS project is being implemented with the collaborative initiative of the Government of Nepal & UNDP, with the financial support of the Royal Norwegian Government & the Government of Finland.

Bajura Unplugged: 0% Battery, 100% Josh



POV: You signed up for a scoping study on agri-entrepreneurs. Bajura threw in mountains, rivers and a free adventure pass.

Day 1. Two Scorpios. 75 km of "bato" hugging the Karnali. Goats on traffic duty: no whistle, pure attitude, undefeated. GuruJi, our driver-slash-DJ, dropped a playlist of pure chaos: one Sushant KC banger "Halliyo Lachak Lachak Tyo Kammar Hey..Deu Na Deu Number Hey...Baat Hola, Mitho Guff Gaaf Hola" begging for a phone number" (my phone: dying) and one wild Tharu song nobody understood a single shabda of. So we freestyled our own chorus: "He re re, ho re re: ke bhanyo, thaha chhaina!" (What did he say? No idea!) Trip anthem: unlocked. 7:15 pm, Piluchaur. The flood had ghosted the micro-hydro. Batti gayo. Village-wide blackout. Phone 0%. Powerbank 0%. Josh... also 0%. Dal bhat by starlight: a Nepali haat finds the bhat in total darkness. Batti kahile aauchha? Thaha chhaina.

Day 2. Plot twist: the solar-powered UNDP RERAS office turned into a charging mela, half the village queuing with phones like offerings. Resilience? It's giving solar. Then Kolti, where a taato pani bath at Olive Eco Village fixed my entire personality. Himali served bhango ko achar, jadibuti chiya and kodo ko roti swimming in ghiu: every item a startup pitch. Himali literally means "snowy", yet jaado was nowhere. Scam. Loved it. Evening vibe check: chiso hawa + tato chiya = win of the day.

Day 3. A day of highs and lows. HIGH: GuruJi's playlist had songs we actually knew. Chamatkar! LOW: our mystery biruwa, rescued with big Kathmandu dreams, took its last breath in the back of the Scorpio. Sapana thulo thiyo, Scorpio le sakena. Gone too soon.

Day 4. Triveni: two hours of ukalo across a jhulunge pul. Pasina. Pasina. PASINA. Then Phalasen: two hotels, one room inspection and a "tanna"(bedsheet) with main-villain energy. "Hoina, hajur- tata." Two more hours to Sanfebagar. Tanna kahile dhoiyo? Thaha chhaina.

Day 5. Budhiganga meetings, khutta still filing complaints, then ghar via Dhangadhi. Phone: 100%. Sushant dai, you can finally have the number.

Bajura gave me the road I never walked, the place I never visited and the wind I never smelled. Going back? Thaha chhaina... tara pakka, "Baat Hola, Mitho Guff Gaaf Hola".

MISSION AASHA

Two Years. Real Progress. Infinite Hope.

We've spent the last 2 years turning community goals into measurable, long-term impact through the Mission Aasha Campaign. Here's a snapshot of what we've built, reached, and transformed together.

Check out our Impact Brief Snapshot!
A huge thank you to our donors, partners, volunteers, and supporters who make this work possible. We're just getting started.

Join our community of Monthly Champions today: 🔗 https://bit.ly/4fLpFcP

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MISSION AASHA
Hope Lives in Nepal

BUILDING HOPE.
POWERING ENTERPRISES.
TRANSFORMING
RURAL NEPAL.

Growth Entrepreneurship and Employment Promotion (GEEP) Program

HOPE > IDEA > ENTERPRISE > INCOME > COMMUNITY

IMPACT AT A GLANCE (2025 – 2026)

520+ Entrepreneurs Capacitated

260+ Enterprises Strengthened

100+ High-Potential Businesses Accelerated

100+ Advanced Workshops Delivered

NPR **2.1M** Generated in Sales

NPR **47.3M +** Technology Investement Mobilized

2 Provincial Expo Hosted

18 Municipal Policy Fellows Embbeded

OUR MODEL FOR CHANGE-
Turning Global Support Into Local Opportunity

RESOURCES
- CAPITAL
- NETWORKS
- SUPPORT

KNOWLEDGE
- SKILLS
- MENTORSHIP
- LEARNING

ENTERPRISE
- STRONGER BUISNESS
- NEW OPPORTUNITIES
- INNOVATION

COMMUNITY
- SALES
- INVESTMENT
- EMPLOYEMENT

SYSTEM CHANGE
- BETTER LOCAL ECONOMIC ECOSYSTEMS

LOCAL IMPACT ACROSS NEPAL



AASHA NEPAL MAI CHHA. HOPE LIVES IN NEPAL.
AND BECAUSE OF YOU, OPPORTUNITY CAN TOO.

Gyaan Shrinkhala Course 3:

Disasters as a Socio-Political Process



Governance Lab and Martin Chautari successfully concluded the third edition of **Gyaan Shrinkhala,** a three-day short course on **"Disaster as a Socio-Political Process,"** facilitated by Dr. Rachana Upadhyaya held from 17th - 19th September from 8am to 10:30 am. The course brought together young professionals, researchers, and students to explore disasters beyond natural hazards, examining how vulnerability, governance, power, and justice shape who is recognized, protected, and supported during disasters. Through interactive discussions, role-play, and real-world case studies, participants critically engaged with Nepal's disaster governance landscape and reflected on the importance of evidence-informed and inclusive public policy.

Thank you for your continued support of Daayitwa Abhiyaan. Should you have any inquiries, feedback, or interest in contributing to our future newsletters, please do not hesitate to reach out.

If you have any queries, send us your email:
communications@daayitwa.org

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